

UNITED NATIONS



NATIONS UNIES

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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**REMARKS AT DINNER HOSTED BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF SAUDI ARABIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE HIGH-LEVEL EVENT
ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)
New York, 10 December 2012**

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

I am grateful to Ambassadors Al-Mouallimi, Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia, and Ambassador Sangqu, Chair of the 1540 Committee of the Security Council, for organizing this important event.

Through resolution 1540, the Security Council has established an effective programme of focussed steps to prevent non-State actors from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

This supplements the prohibitions on States already put in place under the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the conventions banning biological and chemical weapons.

I welcome Saudi Arabia's continuing efforts and financial support to implement the resolution, including through international and regional cooperation.

The Security Council 1540 Committee is a unique platform.

I encourage the Committee to continue to further strengthen its role in offering specific support to Member States.

Seminars and workshops, such as the one held in Riyadh two years ago, are providing useful lessons.

International and regional organizations have come to play an essential role in assisting national efforts

I also welcome the increasingly prominent role that the 1540 Committee attaches to partnership with civil society.

Those voices, be they from non-governmental organizations, academia or industry, have much to contribute.

I am encouraged by the initiative of Austria to convene, next month in Vienna, the first civil society forum in support of resolution 1540.

Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

The 1540 Committee has a key role to play in ensuring that the world is a safe place and in allowing people in every country to pursue their lives free of fear of catastrophic attack by non-State actors.

Let us sustain our efforts to counter the threats of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

I thank you for your attention. I look forward to your thoughts tonight. And I once again thank the Government of Saudi Arabia for its initiative.

Thank you.